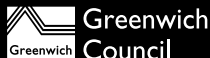


GREENWICH TIME



**Radio rover
stops in
Woolwich
- p15**



**Orton know
better at
Greenwich
Playhouse
- p20**

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No.158 July 26 2011

On your marks!



**LONDON
OLYMPICS
1 YEAR
TO GO**

THERE are just 12 months to go before the greatest show on earth comes to London and the eyes of the world turn to the capital for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The famous torch is due to arrive from Greece at the Olympic Stadium exactly a year tomorrow, on July 27 2012.

Here in Greenwich the excitement is already ramping up among people of all ages and from all walks of life, as the

by Dick Townsend-Smith

borough fine-tunes its plans to host several of the main events. The historic Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich will be the venue for Shooting, Paralympic Shooting and Paralympic Archery. And Greenwich Park will host the Equestrian and Modern Pentathlon events. The O2, which will be known as the North Greenwich Arena during

the Games, will be the venue for the gymnastics and basketball events.

Shops and businesses are already getting ready for the influx of sports people and their support teams, as well as the thousands of visitors and tourists who will be flocking to the borough. Meanwhile, locals are making the most of the new sporting facilities that are springing up in parks and open spaces all over the borough

Turn to Page 7

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In my opinion

Let's create a lasting legacy together



LIKE clockwork every year after watching Wimbledon, I run to the nearest sports outlet, purchase trainers and the relevant sports attire and then head to my garage in search of a racket. I play regularly for about a month, then place my racket back in the garage.

The Olympics arrive in London in just over a year and I find myself asking the question, what will become of the excitement, enthusiasm, and energy for it. Will there actually be a lasting Olympic legacy?

Growing up, one of the things I always struggled with was finding somewhere to play basketball. There were no courts in local parks and I couldn't afford court hire so I would travel to Kingston three times a week to play the sport I loved. Other players could not afford the journey so their interest waned. I was lucky and by 16 I had met other like-minded players, and coaches who helped to establish a team in South East London where I could develop my basketball skills. Thanks to Greenwich Council funding, Crown Woods College has opened its doors and hearts to basketball and

is promoting the sport to pupils as well as the wider community. In conjunction with the newly formed Greenwich Basketball Academy, the college is putting on exhibition games. Steps like these are important to enable a lasting legacy. By working with schools, local basketball clubs and Greenwich Council, the academy will endeavour to increase the standard of basketball whilst creating job opportunities and opening the door to scholarships for students. The academy team is being led by Joel Moore, the former Great Britain Captain who holds two Commonwealth Gold Medals. It aims to change the face of basketball in Greenwich forever, through the development of school leagues and coaching clinics and it is eager for the community to be involved in the project. Let's create a lasting legacy together. Find out more by emailing info@greenwichbasketballacademy.co.uk or visit www.greenwichbasketballacademy.co.uk

Ashley Thomas,
professional basketball coach

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How to make it business as usual for 2012

TRANSPORT for London has launched two new schemes to ensure that it will be business as usual during the Olympics. The schemes are designed to help firms run smoothly during the Games, and have been set up in response to a request by the Federation of Small Businesses to help enterprises affected

by the Olympics. The first programme starts in August and is designed for multi-site businesses employing over 200 people. This may include retail outlets, restaurant chains and financial institutions.

TfL will also be running more than 50 free workshops aimed at firms with less than 200 employees. The schemes

will help firms prepare for any travel disruption that may affect their business, and will cover topics such as how local roads will be managed, as well as managing staff, deliveries and services during Games time.

Additionally, a new online planning tool has been developed to help businesses

think about the key issues affecting them during the Games.

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Changing places for 2012

LONDON OLYMPICS 1 YEAR TO GO

Pupils receive awards for community clean up

by Dick Townsend-Smith

PUPILS from Woolwich Polytechnic School were presented with awards from a former Olympic champion for their work in transforming a nature reserve.

Olympic gold medallist Jonathan Edwards went to the boys' school in Hutchins Road, Thamesmead, last Tuesday (July 19) to present the awards to pupils who took part in Project Develop, part of the London 2012 Changing Places Programme.

They had spent a day in January helping to clear the Tump Nature Reserve, a local canal area and a pedestrian underpass, cutting back overgrown shrubs and weeds, and clearing debris from the canal bed, woodland and pathways.

Edwards, the current triple jump world record holder, gave the pupils an inspirational talk on how he achieved his gold medal. A video was also shown of him jumping 18.9 metres, which is still an unbroken record. As part of his visit, a Sorbus Dodong tree, known as the "Olympic Flame", was planted in the school garden.

Also at the ceremony was former Woolwich Polytechnic pupil George Newman, who won a gold medal in the World Transplant Games. He had overcome lung problems and a kidney transplant to scoop a haul of four gold medals in 2007 in Bangkok at the age of 19 and is now a teacher at the school.

Project Develop was set up by



CLEAN SWEEP: Woolwich Polytechnic pupils with Olympic champ Jonathan Edwards (centre), PC Lindsay Sprott (left), and gold medal-winning teacher George Newman, inset, Jonathan checks out the 'Olympic Flame' tree planted in the school garden

the Met Police working closely with LOCOG, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. It aims to encourage local communities to help make local areas clean and safe and enables proceeds of crime seized by police to be injected back into local communities in order to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

PC Lindsay Sprott from the Met's Olympic Community Relations Team, who is

working on Project Develop, told GT: "The visit went very well. The pupils were very impressed with Jonathan Edwards and particularly by his inspirational talk."

"This was a great project which has helped to build a stronger relationship between the young people, police and local community as a



result. Pupils approached the project with great enthusiasm, commitment and hard work, and I am pleased their efforts have been recognised today."

DON'T FORGET TO RECYCLE YOUR COPY OF GREENWICH TIME

We're rooting for our Zoe

LONDON OLYMPICS 1 YEAR TO GO

Family's roller-coaster ride

IT'S hard enough for the rest of us to take in schoolgirl weightlifter Zoe Smith's amazing rise to an almost automatic place in Britain's Olympic team for 2012.

But imagine what it must be like for the other three people at home in Abbey Wood - mum Niki, dad Terry and younger sister Yana.

GT carried the very first story on Zoe on November 7, 2007, and since then it's been one fantastic story after another, including a gold medal at the Commonwealth Youth Games in 2008, a bronze medal at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in India and a silver in the 2011 World Youth Championships, breaking British records galore along the way. She was helped on her way by Greenwich Starting Blocks.

"It's just been incredible, so incredible it's hard to know where to start," said Niki. "That first story in GT was when she won the British Under 17 title and broke the record when she was 13 years and nine days old."

"That was really big news then and we were so excited. That qualified her for the European championships so straight away she was an international athlete."

Zoe's chance switch to weightlifting from gymnastics at the Europa club in Erith has been well documented, but how did the family hear about it?

Terry said: "I was sitting in the car after one of the early weightlifting sessions and her coach, Andy Callard, came over and said: 'Your daughter could be a champion.'"

"I went in the gym a few weeks later and saw a weight on the floor. It was about 60k. When he turned his back I lifted it slightly

by Peter Cordwell

off the floor. Zoe said she was going to lift the weight and I was in shock." Zoe had been doing gymnastics for years but was only a little above average. Niki said: "She was all power but no grace. She switched to weightlifting when Yvonne and Len at the club said they wanted someone for the London Youth Games. "We went to see her first competition at the South East Counties championships in Woking, having never seen her lift a weight. She won and when she put down the weight

have to use their brains to focus and stick at it."

How has the family coped with Zoe's fame, including a trophy last year from BBC's 'Sports Personality of the Year' competition.

Niki said: "It all happened so fast at first but now each step she takes seems almost natural and we go along with it, even though it's been a roller-coaster with all the media attention."

One conundrum led to Zoe's choice to put her education on hold for a year to move to the national training camp in Leeds.

"It couldn't all be done, school, training and all the media things that she

She'll be the baby - she'll be 18 against weightlifters ten years older than her

she kind of let out a sigh. I had never seen her so proud of herself - and she was still only 12.

"That was the turning point for me and Zoe gave up the gymnastics in favour of weightlifting."

Terry added: "We were in Greenwich Park once when Zoe was seven and she pulled herself up over these rings and flipped over before going to play in the sand with Yana. All the other kids were goggle-eyed."

A weightlifter's strength, apparently, comes from your back, your legs and your behind. "We all laugh about her having a weightlifter's bum - she got it from me," joked Niki.

Terry chimed in: "Brains too. Andy reckons that weightlifters are usually clever as well. Most seem to go to university. Maybe weightlifting has something to do with mind over matter. They certainly

didn't want to keep turning down," said Niki, "so she made what I think was the right decision."

"Her school have been very good and said that she can come back after the Olympics. She's staying with five British champions, paid for by the lottery."

Sister Yana is a gymnast herself but is struggling with the Osgood-Schlatters sports injury. She said: "I'm very proud of Zoe and it's been great to follow her amazing progress."

Injury seems the only thing that will keep Zoe, 17, out of the Games in her home town next year. She has a shoulder injury at the moment but hopes are that it is not too serious.

"It's just one of those things associated with top-class sport," said Niki. "You can train for years and get injured the week before the Olympics. It's something you just have to accept and hope that it doesn't happen."

"Her aim is to get in the GB team. After all the publicity people might think she's in line for a medal but that couldn't be further from the truth. She'll be a baby, she'll be 18 against weightlifters ten years older than her, so she's got a long way to go."

"If she's picked she'll get two tickets and I'm down for one of them!" But Terry said: "I'd just as soon watch it on the telly!"



ZOE FAR ZOE GOOD: the Smith family catches up with Zoe's sporting achievements



MEDIA MOMENT: Zoe Smith (centre) at a press event near the Olympic Stadium

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Letters

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We reserve the right to edit any letters received.

Test events helped to show off borough's wonderful buildings

REGARDING the letter in July 12th edition of Greenwich Time, although I did not attend the test events I feel that holding the horse events in Greenwich Park is a fantastic idea and will bring not only many more tourists into the borough but well needed money. Greenwich borough



has been a favourite for filming in well-known

television series like The Bill and London's Burning. We have such lovely historic buildings and places in this borough that it is wonderful to show them off. My sister in New Zealand saw the test events on TV and she told me seeing Greenwich Park had made her homesick.

To those people who are 'protesting'- these events are only for the Olympics and everything will be 'back to normal' afterwards. But please, meanwhile, let people enjoy these events and there is still a vast amount of space in Greenwich Park for everyone to enjoy.

Eve Galler,
Plumstead

Pentathlon was fantastic but food vendors a rip off

FURTHER to Stephen Nelson's letter in the July 12 edition of Greenwich Time. My husband and I secured tickets to the men's modern pentathlon event on Saturday, July 9, and it was FANTASTIC. We got really involved with the events and we all cheered our men on for them to reach 3rd and 9th position overall. Well done Nick Woodbridge and James Cooke! There is very little damage done to the park and it will bring much needed money into our local economy. As with all major events security was paramount and there were a lot of friendly security staff (bag searching, body searching etc) but there was no animosity. The only negative thing

we have to say is about the vendors in and around the outside of the park. WHAT A RIP OFF! You need to lower your charges in order that more people can purchase your food/drinks. Two pubs charged £10 for a small glass of wine and a pint, inside the park there were stalls selling bacon baguettes at £5, hog roast at £5 and beef baguettes at £5.80, while tea/coffee was around the £2.50 mark. But overall, the event was really good, well organised and the commentator got us involved and made us feel part of the event. Keep up the good work for 2012 Greenwich and Woolwich.

Lisa and Mick Cole,
Eltham

Equestrian events must move

THE tests for the Olympic equestrian events in Greenwich Park have shown beyond doubt that the events should be moved to an established venue, such as Badminton. Greenwich Park is a heavily used public park, it is part of a World Heritage Site and a national treasure. It's also too small for an Olympic cross-country event. Those who care about such things will also know of the serious damage and threat to the park's archaeology, flora and fauna. On all these counts, the verdict is clear: the events should be moved. The test events have now also shown that the park

is the wrong venue for equestrians. It is too small and the ground is too uneven for a cross-country event. Because of the steep slopes and tight turns, horses and riders would be put at risk. Spectators would be limited to 50,000 (rather than 300,000 at Badminton) and their views would be restricted by the hills and the congestion. There were also problems with the arena surface that are an on-going cause for concern. So there is a serious risk of staging sub-standard Olympic equestrian events. Great disruption is being caused and vast amounts of

money are being squandered in order to try to stage the Olympic equestrian events at an unsuitable venue. It is time to put an end to this madness. They can be moved, and they should be moved.

Dr John Bell
Greenwich

● LOCOG director of sport, Debbie Jevans replies: The equestrian test event in Greenwich Park was a resounding success receiving acclaim from the

international and British equestrian federations, riders, Greenwich residents and schoolchildren. LOCOG has gone into a lot of detail in its plans and has worked closely with agencies such as The Royal Parks to ensure that the park is protected. The park is not too small, and the undulations mean that it will be an exciting and challenging course for the riders, and will show off the key features of the park to stunning

effect. There is no venue in the UK currently geared to accommodating all equestrian disciplines and the Modern Pentathlon at the same time. We are committed to a 'compact Games' with most venues within or near the Olympic Park in Stratford. The equestrian events will happen in Greenwich Park next year and we look forward to putting on an unforgettable event.

Disruption will be temporary

RE Mr S Nelson's letter (GT July 12), there are concerns about the use or, more accurately, misuse of Greenwich Park and Blackheath for the Equestrian Events in 2012 but nimbyism this is not. True, if this goes ahead, there will be great disruption to traffic, the Park will be closed for some time and Greenwich and Blackheath will be badly affected, but this will be temporary. The real concern is about the inevitable permanent and semi-permanent damage to a vulnerable and valuable amenity that is used and loved by local people and visitors. The Test Events catered for less than one-tenth of the spectators and fewer competitors than are proposed for next year and it is to be hoped that LOCOG now see how unsuitable Greenwich Park and Blackheath are for a large-scale equestrian event. There is no shame in a change of mind.

Janet Sweet,
Blackheath

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STEVE SPOUSE, PLUMSTEAD: The passenger ship Deutschland was moored at Canary Wharf for one day to test it out for next summer when the boat will be used as a floating hotel by the German Olympic team



Fan-TASH-tic!

Starting Blocks girl strikes gold for Greenwich

by Peter Cordwell

IF you're searching for a good example of a young person inspired by sport to develop a positive approach to life, look no further than 11-year-old Starting Blocks star Natasha Baptiste.

The brilliant young gymnast from Kidbrooke will no doubt come across the slings and arrows of existence, but my money would be on 'Tash' to see them off with aplomb. She's 11 going on 11 and you feel she could give you a good talking to instead of the other way round.

Natasha won three gold medals and the team silver at the junior section of the London Youth Games and inevitably the talk is of future championships, including an Olympic Games, for the girl who already trains five times a week, four hours a time.

"I was really happy at the Youth Games. I felt that I'd really achieved something," said Natasha. "I was fairly confident because there were only two pieces, floor and vault, which are my two best."

"The beam is a bit scary but it's not that bad. You get used to it. I like the vault best because it's fast and exciting."

She started when she was six, mum Shelley, dad Laz and Godmother Andrea sorting out the excellent Europa club in Erith for her.



Shelley, who works for a law firm, said: "When she was very little she couldn't keep still. She was always doing cartwheels and flips, so we decided to find the best club we could. Europa had a good reputation and has been very supportive. Tash was an instant hit at the club and soon moved up the grades. She started competing at eight and now she's a member of Team London that competes all over the country."

"It's expensive but we're being supported by Greenwich Starting Blocks, which has been a big help with her kit and travel," said Shelley. "I wouldn't push her but she loves her gymnastics."

"She also swims like a fish and won gold in the backstroke at the schools gala at Eltham last week when the mayor was there."

Natasha goes to St Joseph's primary school in Greenwich and will be going to St Ursula's secondary school, Blackheath,

in September. "The school has been great in supporting Tash," said Shelley, "and St Ursula's looks brilliant."

Little sister Cheyanne, aged six, is just starting in the gym and brothers Jamelle, 18, and Andre, 15, are footballers.

"Natasha is very confident and I'm sure she'll do well if she carries on as she is," said Shelley.

Natasha's coach Samantha James told GT: "She's a dedicated, hard-working gymnast who loves competition. She did brilliantly at the London Youth Games and she's got every chance of making real progress, even to represent Great Britain, because she's got the right attitude. She's a pleasure to coach."

Quick off the Blocks

GREENWICH Starting Blocks was set up in 2007 to raise funds for aspiring young athletes in the borough.

At present the charitable trust funds 55 young people for a total of £22,000 a year. Seven of the Starting Blocks athletes (Ambassadors) are training to qualify for Team GB for the 2012 Games in their respective sports - Gemma Gibbons (Judo), Zoe Smith (weightlifting), Jeffrey Lawal-Balogun (athletics, 200 metres), Davoud

Etminari (Taekwondo), Robert Barrett (sitting volleyball), David Bolarinwa (athletics, 100 metres) and Xavier Mohammed (swimming, 200m freestyle, 400m individual medley) • Starting Blocks' gala dinner takes place on September 15 with special guest Lord Seb Coe at The Indigo2. Tickets £90 including a £15 gift aid donation, or £75 without donation. To book call 020 8921 5408 or email janine.whittaker@greenwich.gov.uk

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Going great guns

Work starts on 2012 shooting venue



AIMING HIGH: above, an artist's impression of the shooting venue, below, an external view of the enclosure

WORK is now under way on the Shooting venue at The Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich, with the first steel structures coming out of the ground.

Construction has concentrated on the finals range, with the field of play now being built and surrounded in fabric. The spectator enclosure is also now being constructed, and work has also started on the 25-metre range.

Richard Arnold, Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) project sponsor for the shooting venue, said: "This was the last ODA venue to start construction and is on track to finish in time to host test events next year."

Spectators will enter the venue with views of the world-famous military base - the longest continuous Georgian building façade in the UK - before taking their seats to watch the action. It is estimated that more than 104,000 spectators will



attend the Shooting and Paralympic Archery competitions during the Games - equating to around 6,500 people every day. Immediately after the Games, the venue will begin to be dismantled and the site returned to its original condition, after which it will be handed back to the Ministry of Defence.

On your marks!

From Page 1

borough under Greenwich's Council's huge Playground to Podium initiative - designed to help people get fit and stay active. The borough has already had a taste of things to come during five days of test events in Greenwich Park earlier this month. They were designed to see how the Equestrian arena and Cross Country course would work out in practice so that any potential issues could be resolved well in advance. The tests were hugely successful, and thousands of local residents and school children went along to see the action with free tickets that the Council secured from LOCOG, the London Organising Committee. The park was heavily protected from possible damage and is now being fully restored to its previous state. Other test events are planned for Greenwich in the run-up to the Olympics. The qualifiers for the Gymnastics will be held at The O2 from January 10 to 18 2012 And the ISSF World Cup for Shooting will take place at the Royal Artillery Barracks from April 18 to 29. Meanwhile, the one-year countdown to the 2012 Games was due to be launched in Woolwich's recently-revamped General Gordon Square last weekend

when the borough joined in UK-wide celebrations. They included inter-city games, a mini-athletics circuit as well as unique footage about the Olympic and Paralympic Games and a film of Woolwich past and present. Academy Award-winning British film Chariots of Fire was also screened. South London Special League were due in the square on Saturday helping to encourage people of all abilities to get into sport and GLLaB, Greenwich's local labour initiative, provided information and advice about training and job opportunities. On Sunday there was an opportunity to try out new sports for free at the Get Active in Greenwich Park event. People got a chance to take part in a variety of sports with everything from taekwondo to New Age Kurling. Greenwich Council leader Chris Roberts, told GT: "The big build-up to London 2012 has already started, and people are getting more and more excited. Our borough will be centre stage for much of the time, and what happens here will be seen all over the world. So let's all get ready to soak up the atmosphere and enjoy what will be a once-in-a-lifetime event for the people of Greenwich."

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Talking newspapers for the blind

FOR 34 years, Greenwich Talking Newspapers has provided a weekly 90-minute audiotape of local news for blind and partially sighted residents.

Using local newspapers as its source, the service is run by 40 volunteers who work in teams on a roster taking on different aspects of this weekly service all year round.

Charlton House is where it all happens, with the teams on a roster with editors, studio managers, readers and copiers who decide which local news stories should go on the tape. There are usually three readers per session and the tapes recorded are bagged up and posted to subscribers free via the Articles for the Blind' postal service.

Also vital to the service are those operating behind the

scenes who log in the weekly returned wallets and clean the tapes ready for copying and distribution.

Currently there are approximately 60 listeners but with over 1000 blind and partially sighted residents in Greenwich more could be taking up the free service.

Greenwich Talking Newspaper liaise with the council's sensory team who visit those who are newly registered blind. The

team is provided with an introductory tape to leave with newly registered blind residents.

•FOR more information on how to subscribe or even to volunteer contact either the GTN's chairman, on 020 8850 9450 or the secretary, on 020 8859 5671.

•THERE is a spoken word version of GT alongside the online copy of the paper at www.greenwich.gov.uk/greenwichtime

Wat-er way to have fun

OH wat-er lot of fun these schoolchildren had when they designed river-themed posters.

The Year 4's from Thorntree primary in Charlton were recruited by the Met police to help promote safety on the Thames.

It was a competition to find the best design, and Ann Nguyen's colourful picture and slogan won the day. The poster will be on the walls of Greenwich schools for a whole year.

In her picture she drew a couple of famous London landmarks - and of course the river.

The nine-year-old told GT: "My poster has The O2, the London Eye and some canoeists on the Thames. My safety message was 'Always go with a friend'."

And Ann and her friends had a treat when the river police took them out for a spin in their hi-tech boat.

"We went down the river to Tower Bridge and the Tower of London, it was really fast and exciting," she added.

Some of the children's posters were home to some unusual creatures. Teacher James Luetchford said: "There were lots of sharks in the rough drafts, but we realised there are no sharks in the Thames so they had to go!"

Ann's poster also hangs in the local police station, and her Charlton home.

She said: "I was really proud to be picked as the winner, I thought my friend was going to win, because hers was really good. My parents were amazed."

Schoolkids design posters to promote safety on the river



POSTER GIRL: Ann Nguyen (above) is all smiles as she shows off her winning design, and left, with the year 4 classmates who all created posters of their own.



MEPS & GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY MEMBERS

GREENWICH AND WOOLWICH

Nick Raynsford (Lab)

Email raynsfordn@parliament.uk or write to Nick Raynsford MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Call the office in advance on 020 7219 5895 to register for a surgery (lines are open Monday-Thursday 10am-12pm & 2-4pm).
2nd & 4th Fridays of the month, 7pm at 32 Woolwich Road, Greenwich SE10 0JU.
2nd Saturday of the month, 11am at Charlton House, Charlton Road, Charlton SE7 8RE.

2nd Saturday of the month, 2pm at West Greenwich House, 141 Greenwich High Road, Greenwich SE10 8JA.

4th Saturday of the month: 11am at the Barnfield Project, Oak House, Barnfield Road SE18 3UH.

4th Saturday of the month, 2pm at Woolwich Town Hall, Wellington Street, Woolwich SE18 6PW.

ELTHAM

Clive Efford (Lab) Call for an appointment at the following monthly surgeries on 020-8850 5744 between 11am and 3pm Mon-Fri.

1st Tues: Anstridge Community Centre, Anstridge Rd. SE9, 11am-12.30pm

1st Fri: Horn Park Community Centre, 96 Sibthorpe Road, 11am-12.30pm

2nd Fri: Slade Hall, Pendrell Street, 6pm

2nd Sat: St Mary's Community Centre, Eltham High Street, 10am and 4th Friday

oat a of the month at 6pm.
3rd Tues: Middle Park Community Centre, 150 Middle Park Avenue, 11am-12.30pm

3rd Fri: Coldharbour Neighbourhood office, library entrance, William Barefoot Drive, 11am.

4th Sat: Shrewsbury House, 10am, Bushmoor Crescent

ERITH & THAMESMEAD

Teresa Pearce (Lab)

All surgeries are booked by appointment by calling 020 7219 7068 or write to Teresa Pearce MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, or email teresa.pearce.mp@parliament.uk

Four advice surgeries each month: the 1st Saturday of the month in Thamesmead, the 2nd Saturday of the month in Erith, the 3rd Friday of the month in Northumberland Heath and the 4th Friday of the month in Abbey Wood.

GLA MEMBER

Len Duvall (Lab) is the GLA member for Greenwich and Lewisham. Please write to Len Duvall, GLA, City Hall, Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA; phone 020-7983 4408/4517; or email len.duvall@london.gov.uk

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Contact your MEP at the UK Office of the European Parliament on 020-7227 4300.

Contact Members' Services on 020 8921 5151 for information on the surgery timings for your own councillor.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

THE following meetings are taking place over the next few days in the Town Hall, Wellington Street (unless otherwise stated).
Social Inclusion Scrutiny Panel - Thursday July 28 7.00 pm

Licensing Review Sub-Committee - Thursday August 4, 6.30pm

More information on 020-8921 5130 or www.greenwich.gov.uk/meetings

On your bike

**LONDON
OLYMPICS
1 YEAR
TO GO**

Cycling has become one of Team GB's most successful events at the Olympics. More and more people have been inspired to get in the saddle both on the track and on the road. **Rod Kitson** talked to one of the borough's top cycle experts about biking's benefits and the names to look out for next summer...

THE likes of Chris Hoy, Bradley Wiggins and Victoria Pendleton made cycling Team GB's most successful pursuit at the Beijing Olympics in 2008. They brought home a haul of 14 medals.

And it looks like they can do even better in 2012. The success of the team has spurred more young riders to get on the track.

Paul Mephram has been racing and riding for over 50 years. He runs the Harry Perry racing bike specialists in Woolwich.

He told GT: "British cycling has become more successful, and there's a lot more to come. If we get the Olympics right it will be very good for cycling."

"Young riders to watch next summer are Ben Swift and a local rider Alex Dowsett. And of course Victoria Pendleton, Chris Hoy and Bradley Wiggins are the big ones."

Paul's passionate about cycling. It's his life, for him and his family. He runs the shop with wife Kath and son Robert. Just don't call it a push bike.

"The only push bike I

know is a broken down motorcycle," Paul joked. "It is a pedal cycle, it is not a push bike - you pedal it, you don't push it!"

The biker's an advocate of the benefits of pedal power. He added: "A guy I know, who was 17 stone at the age of 38 was told by his doctor if he didn't take up a physical activity he would have heart problems by 45. He took up cycling and within two years he was Kent champion, and he's now in the top 12 nationally."

"I love cycling - the fresh air, comradeship, riding with my mates. It is so relaxing. I personally think it prolongs life. I've got cycling friends in their 80s who still ride on a daily basis. I had a friend who hadn't raced for 60 years, and in less than a year he's already won three medals."

Paul says there are just two attributes that make a champion: "Dedication and application. What you put in is what you get out, and of course the main thing is that it's enjoyable."

Cycling is on the up, with more people than ever getting in the saddle for pleasure and for work.

"There's more commuters riding in



FIXER: Paul prepares a racing bike for the road, and below left, a Team GB rider tests the track for the 2012 Games

Paul's tips for new riders:

- Buy a bike from a bone fide dealer, not in a box, especially if you've got no experience of setting up a bike.
- Get a bike that's the right size. Test a few and see what suits.
- Maintain your bike, if you don't it won't give you good use.
- Make sure the saddle is the right height.
- Keep your chain oiled.
- Keep your tyres pumped up to reduce drag and make pedaling easier.



London now because there's a greater understanding between the authorities, the police and the motorists who are accepting that cyclists have the right to be on the road."

Paul's seen more adults coming in to get high quality bikes since a cycle scheme was introduced by the government making it cheaper for working commuters to pay for their steed.

"The cycle scheme initiative has definitely helped, it's a brilliant initiative that has got more people out on bikes," he added.

But some of his fellow cyclists' habits really get under his skin.

"We still need better understanding that the cyclist must abide by the law of the land, in that they must not go across junctions, and not go across lights when they are red. A cyclist does not have the right to jump traffic lights. If an experienced rider does it, a lesser rider might do it and they could land up underneath a lorry."

And lights at night are a must, Paul says. "I've lost too many friends over the years who have been killed through not having lights. A young lad was training up in Orpington and his light went off, and a car pulled out of a side turning and he was killed. Other dangers include parked cars opening their doors into the road."

But beginners shouldn't be put off by these rare occurrences he says, as recent figures show that while there is more traffic on the road, there is a lower percentage of accidents than ever.

"Accidents are extremely rare, so people shouldn't worry about those stories. When you think of the tens of thousands of miles people do on bicycles it is very rare for accidents to happen."

● For more info on cycling in the borough and free weekend cycle training for adults, visit www.greenwich.gov.uk/cycling or call 020 8921 8074

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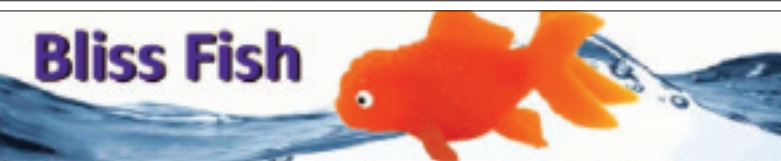
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Greenwich Council

HUNDREDS of residents are enjoying the great outdoors and getting fitter by using a range of new and upgraded sporting facilities in the borough's parks and open spaces. It's all thanks to Greenwich Council's £4.8m Playground to Podium programme designed to get more residents

into sport and fitness both before and after the 2012 London Games. Now the scheme has been given an added boost with the announcement of a £12m injection to grassroots sports by the London Mayor. The money will go to 14 large scale sports participation projects and 26 community facilities including three in Greenwich. Dick Townsend-Smith finds out more about...

The legacy that's already being lived

LONDON OLYMPICS 1 YEAR TO GO



ALL around us is the evidence already of Greenwich's living legacy as a host borough of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Outdoor gyms have been installed in 12 parks with two more on the way, and sports grounds are being revitalised to encourage more people of all ages to get up and get active.

It's all part of the Playground to Podium programme -- the multi-million pound project led by Greenwich Council.

Under Playground to Podium outdoor gyms are already up and running at Abbey Wood Park, Avery Hill Park, Bostall Gardens, Bostall Heath, Coldharbour, Eltham Park South, Fairy Hill Park, Kidbrooke Green, Oxleas Wood, Queenscroft Park, Southwood Road Park and Sutcliffe Park. Work on another two is under way at Blackheath and Eaglesfield Park.

New cricket nets and playing surfaces have also been installed at Bostall Heath and Plumstead Gardens. Bostall Heath and Plumstead Common bowls clubs have been refurbished and redecorated while the two hard tennis courts at Bostall Gardens have been resurfaced, re-netted and re-fenced. New multi-use games areas (MUGAs) have been constructed in Avery Hill Park and Plumstead Gardens; playground equipment has been installed in Plumstead Gardens, Sunbury Street, Villas Road, Well Hall Pleasaunce, Winns Common, Chiswell Square, Avery Hill Park

and Abbey Wood Park.

New changing rooms, and two sets of changing rooms at Charlton Park have been refurbished and redecorated.

Outdoor table tennis tables have been installed at East Greenwich Pleasaunce, Avery Hill Park, Charlton Park and Sutcliffe Park, while a full boules piste has been installed to Avery Hill Park. A new Green Apple award-winning café and accessible public toilets are on the way for Avery Hill Park along with new paths, lighting fencing and tree planting.

The latest Playground to Podium projects have been given a boost with money from the London Mayor's Sports Legacy Fund announced earlier this month.

A massive £12m is to be invested in grassroots sports projects in a bit to get people in the capital more fit and active. The money will go to 14 large scale sports participation projects and 26 community facilities across the London boroughs.

In Greenwich an allocation of £126,000 will help to fund a new BMX track and changing rooms at Hornfair Park while a further £130,000 will go towards an all weather playing pitch at Samuel Montague Centre. The London Mayor's fund is also giving £165,000 to Charlton Lido, which is set for a revamp with a 50-metre pool for use all year round. Additional investment by Greenwich Council, as part of the borough's Olympic legacy, is also providing new sporting facilities for the public at two secondary schools.

From the autumn the new Crown Woods College will be the base for regional competition standard basketball. Together with the rest of the school's sports facilities, it will be available for use by the wider community in the evenings and at weekends. And a new-look Thomas Tallis secondary school, which opens later in the year, also has plans to open up its gymnastics facilities to the community.

The Playground to Podium benefits are happening alongside plans to help more parks in Greenwich achieve the prestigious Green Flag status, which shows that parks are maintained to high standards.

The council is committed to getting 12 public parks up to the standard by 2012. Last month the council agreed a scheme to carry out landscaping, signage and other work to another three parks while a further three parks are due to be submitted later. A total of £441,000 has been agreed, which will come wholly from the £4.772 million Playground to Podium programme. Cllr John Fahy, Greenwich Council's cabinet member for Culture and the Olympics, said: "Our extremely successful Playground to Podium initiative means thousands of local people are now enjoying the new facilities we have provided in our parks and open spaces from the £4.8 million funding we have been able to achieve. "These will provide a lasting legacy long after the Games are over, and will help to keep people of all ages fit and



GREEN TO ENVY: locals, former mayor Barbara Barwick and Cllr John Fahy check out the new bowling green in Plumstead



SPORTING CHANCES: residents of all ages enjoy new and upgraded sporting facilities at parks and open spaces across the borough thanks to funding from Greenwich Council's Playground to Podium scheme



IT'S GREAT OUTDOORS: people young and not so young get active at the outdoor gyms that have sprung up across the borough - including, left, weight-lifter Zoe Smith in Abbey Wood Park, right, Horn Park in Lee and above right, in Charlton Park



A mark of quality

Award for Plumstead special school

A PLUMSTEAD school, which is designed for children with severe and complex special educational needs, has received an award for improving children's mobility.

Willow Dene Primary School is one of only nine schools in Europe to be granted an 'Outstanding' MOVE Quality Mark

The MOVE Programme is an activity based programme designed to improve the mobility of children with physical disabilities or complex needs.

The programme involves parents, therapists and the classroom staff. Individual goals are set for each child and they are given help throughout the school day to learn and practice new skills.

Willow Dene has 31 children on the MOVE Programme and 24 MOVE practitioners which means every class with a child on the programme is supported.

Lin Wright, the school's MOVE coordinator and trainer, was delighted that the school's achievement was recognised with this award.

She said: "It is wonderful to see the progress the children have made and continue to make on the MOVE Programme.

From a child learning to hold up their head to be fed safely to a child taking their

first independent step at the age of 10."

She continued: "It's truly life changing for our children and their families. It means they can access the wider community and go to cinemas, restaurants, social events and family outings. It means they can make their own choices and become more independent. I feel very privileged to be a part of it" she continued.

MOVE Europe's CEO, Peter Holland, comments: "The children, teachers, therapists and parents at Willow Dene have all worked extremely hard with the MOVE Programme so it's great to be able to celebrate their amazing efforts and accomplishments."

"The MOVE Programme aims to get children moving around in different ways, thereby reducing health problems, such as a potential decrease in the need for surgical intervention, and improving their quality of life. Improvements are also seen in communication and social skills as the children become more able to interact with the world around them"

● Councillors confirmed last week that the school will be rebuilt on its existing site. The buildings are agreed to be in poor condition and the decision by the Cabinet follows an assessment of alternative sites in Eltham and Blackheath. More detailed plans will now be developed.

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Trained staff will be on hand to deal with your enquiries, or if necessary, service specialists will be able to assist you. You will also have access to Council services through the internet or by telephone.

Woolwich Library

A new major town centre library opened at The Woolwich Centre on 4 July. The new library is four times the size of the former Woolwich library and has facilities such as self-issue service for books, CDs and DVDs. It also has 100 computers for public use, including laptops, PCs, Apple Macs and ipads.

Service Centre opening times

Monday to Friday,
9am to 5pm

Library opening times

Monday 9am to 7pm
Tuesday 9am to 5.30pm
Wednesday 9am to 5.30pm
Thursday 9am to 7pm
Friday 9am to 5.30pm
Saturday 9am to 5pm

Big build up for 2012 construction kit

PUPILS in Greenwich can see how the 'big build' of the 2012 venues are being delivered with the national launch of the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) 'construction kit'.

The kit, aimed at 7-19 year olds, features fact sheets about each of the 2012 venues and insights into the people that have helped deliver them.

It's also packed with images, architects' drawings and maps as well as activity ideas and challenges highlighting the construction and sustainability of the Games.

The ODA has allowed all 450 schools in the Host Boroughs to get involved in

the Olympic Park 'big build' which have included bus trips around the Olympic Park, workshops and talks by ODA representatives.

The 'construction kit' was launched at the Olympic Park by the 100 members of the ODA's Construction Crew as well as local school children, Olympic Gold medal winning sprinter Marlon Devonish and ODA Chairman John Armitt.

Marlon Devonish said: "It is great to see young people local to the Olympic Park and across the UK getting involved in preparations for London 2012. The Games will be an inspirational sporting event and the Construction Crew show that the

Games have the potential to inspire in many different ways."

ODA Chairman John Armitt said: The 'construction kit' will give young people across the country the chance to learn in detail how the transformation of this part of east London has been achieved and hopefully inspire the next generation of engineers, architects and construction professionals."

● The 'construction kit' can be accessed through the official London 2012 education programme 'Get Set', with the resources available to schools signed up to www.london2012.com/getset

Borough BRIEFS

Olympic agency information day

LOCALS have a chance to quiz a range of agencies about the Olympics at a public event next Monday, August 1.

Representatives from LOCOG, the London Organising Committee for the London Games and the Olympic Delivery Authority will be in General Gordon Square from 10am to 4pm. They'll be joined by officers from Greenwich Council, the police, fire brigade and ambulance services. It's a chance for local people to ask questions about any issue relating to the Games from getting a job and parking to transport and security.

Last chance to suggest location for 2012 trees

TREE lovers in Greenwich are being reminded that there is still time to enter suggestions for where some of the 2,012 trees should be planted as part of Greenwich Council's London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games legacy. The tree planting is part of the 'Playground to Podium' scheme with 28 locations chosen across the borough. The closing date for public consultation is Friday, August 12, and suggestions should be submitted to parks@greenwich.gov.uk

Support church tribute to UK's assassinated PM

THE death of Spencer Perceval, Britain's only prime minister to have been assassinated, is to be commemorated by St Luke's Church in Charlton 200 years after his death.

His body is buried in the family vault at St Luke's, and the church is planning a civic service at noon on May 11 next year. VIP guests have been invited. There will also be a concert the following day, and a pageant is being planned.

"We are very keen to involve the whole community in events for the pageant and would love volunteers to come on to the steering committee," said organiser Gwen Zammit. "We know 2012 is going to be a busy year, but we felt this occasion should be recognised."

"As part of the service to be held at St Luke's, where Spencer Perceval is buried, we would like to recruit people to join our church choir. At the moment the rehearsals are by arrangement but I am planning to have a more regular programme once we have more people." Perceval was shot in the lobby of the House of Commons. His killer was tried at the Old Bailey and executed three days later.

● For further information about the events, and volunteering, contact Gwen on 020 8856 7373.

Radio rover stops in Woolwich

Locals tell London about the Olympics on BBC bus



BUS CONDUCTORS: main pic, musicians help to create a fun atmosphere in General Gordon Square, below, Cllr John Fahy on Eddie Nestor's drive time show



BBC radio hosts made a broadcast from the newly revamped General Gordon Square earlier this month. It was a chance for locals to explain how they feel about the Olympics and what it means to them to the whole of London through BBC London 94.9.

The station's double decker bus was parked up in the square on July 14 as part of a roadshow to the Olympic host boroughs. The roadshow theme centres on the question 'London 2012- What's in it for you?' The BBC team are visiting the Olympic boroughs and are getting to the heart of the communities most affected by 2012. The BBC tour bus has

already been to Hackney, Waltham Forest and Tower Hamlets before it rolled into Woolwich.

During the visit the bus also broadcast Eddie Nestor's drive time show which featured Cllr John Fahy, Greenwich Council's cabinet member for the Olympics. Cllr Fahy told GT: "It was great to welcome the BBC to the new General Gordon Square and be part of their London 2012 roadshow. "It gave local residents a chance to share their views and it was a good opportunity to share with everyone the latest news and plans from the council about our preparations as a host borough for the Games."

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Residents' clean team help to make Charlton green

AROUND 50 people collected 19 bags of rubbish in a 'clean and green' day in Charlton. The 'Clean, Green and Freecycle' day was organised by Charlton Central Residents Association and saw teams of local residents cleaning up some unloved areas in their neighbourhood. The association covers 13 streets from Elliscombe Road in the south of the area to Delafield Road in the north. Three plots of land were cleared of rubbish and cheered up with donated plants. The clean up earlier this month was the third in a series and part of the London-wide Capital Clean-up. During the day

the association also ran a 'freecycle' where locals could bring unwanted but usable goods to swap with other items for free. Greenwich Council was also collecting used batteries and textiles that cannot be put in the blue-top wheelie bins. CCRA chair Linda Pound explained that the group, which is an Environmental Champion for Greenwich Council, works closely with the Council to maintain the local area. She said: "Previous community days have proved to be very popular. Through working with local residents over the years, we have identified a number of issues of concern. We are systematically



following these up in order to improve the local environment and quality of life for those who live in the area".

BLOT SPOT TO HOT SPOT: volunteers work on an area at the top of Nadine Street in Charlton, junction with Charlton Church Lane.

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Borough
BRIEFSCharlton Rooms
costume sale

PROPS, hats, make up and wigs from film and theatre productions will be on sale as part of a costume sale next month. The Charlton Assembly Rooms, The Village, will be taken over on Saturday, August 6, for the event from 11am to 4pm. All manner of lovely costumes from the last decade will be available from 50p. There will also be a section packed with theatrical trims, sequins, fabric bundles, threads and buttons - all perfect for costume making or crafts. The sale is being run to support the 'Shine Walk' for Cancer Research UK.

Walking for water not on it



HEAVY WATER: students show what it's like for people to carry a bucket of water on their heads

YEAR 8 students at Eltham Hill Technology College for Girls on Eltham Hill have been experiencing the hardships felt by women in rural Africa, who often walk 10 miles or more every day just to fetch water. They have been taking part in the school's MAD (Make a Difference) project to raise

funds and awareness of WaterAid, the international non-governmental organisation that is trying to transform lives by improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation. The students carried out a research project on the availability and importance of fresh drinking water, and decided to

take part in a sponsored walk around Queenscroft Park to raise money for WaterAid. They carried a weighted container on their heads for part of the journey to simulate the real thing. Around 180 students took part in the walk, and the school is now counting up how much was raised in sponsorship.

Our magical
world of books

Eltham schools present literacy festival

by Dick Townsend-Smith

DOZENS of children from schools in New Eltham spent an evening showing their parents and guests how their growing interest in reading had opened up a magical new world for them.

The event was the New Eltham Cluster Literacy Festival, where a group of schools in the area got together to celebrate the success of the Power of Reading Project. The project aims to improve teachers' knowledge of books and extend the creative use of children's literature in the classroom.

The idea is that it will increase children's enjoyment of reading and improve their literacy.

The event was hosted by the new Crown Woods College on July 7 and was opened by children's author Michael Rosen, a former Children's Laureate, who read some of his poetry. Eltham MP Clive Efford also attended the event.

Children from four primary schools - Wyborne, Deansfield, Gordon and Eltham CofE, took part, along with Years 7 and 9 from Crown Woods. They acted out scenes and read extracts from books they had read, and presented performance poetry and choral speaking.



ACTION HEROES: above, pupils from Gordon School get into character, right, the youngsters perform with students from Crown Woods College



"It was highly successful," said Sheila White, headteacher from Wyborne Primary. "We had 18 Year 6 children aged 10 and 11 taking part. They did an extract from a book called Skellig by David Almond, wrote poetry based on the text and read it out, and did some theatre based on one of the scenes in the book. They thoroughly enjoyed

the experience and were really excited about taking part."

She added: "The festival was part of a massive project to promote the power of reading to children both collectively and individually. The festival is

designed to engage parents more in their children's reading and writing."

LONDON BOROUGH OF GREENWICH
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
PLUMSTEAD ROAD FOOTWAY
TEMPORARY CLOSURE

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Greenwich Borough Council intends to make an Order to facilitate utilities works associated with the Woolwich Arsenal development in Arsenal Way. The effect of the Order would be to temporarily prohibit pedestrians from entering onto or proceeding on:
 - (a) the northern footway of Plumstead Road that lies between Arsenal Way and a point 10 metres east of that junction; and
 - (b) the pedestrian refuge in the carriageway of Plumstead Road that lies opposite the junction with Arsenal Way.
2. The above prohibitions would only apply at such times and to such extent as shall be indicated by the placing of the appropriate traffic signs.
3. Whilst the above prohibitions are in operation, the alternative route for pedestrians would be via the southern footway of Plumstead Road accessible using the pedestrian crossings located west of the junction with New Road and immediately west of the junction with Invermore Place.
4. The Order would come into operation on 2nd August 2011 and would continue in operation for up to 18 months, or until the works have been completed, whichever is the sooner. However, it is expected that the works would be completed within 12 weeks.
5. Queries concerning these works should be directed to Greenwich Council's Directorate of Regeneration, Enterprise & Skills on 020 8921 6024.

Assistant Director, Strategic Transportation
Crown Building
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(INTERNAL REF: HIGHWAY)

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Council

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First Year Anniversary on
4-8-11



His and Nathalie were married last year in Belgium and will celebrate their first anniversary among friends.

SCENE

Theatre

Orton double at Playhouse

- P20



Film

Harry goes out with a bang

- P21



The Xtra mile

He's best mates with some of the biggest names in rap, and last week hip-hop champion and 1Xtra DJ **Tim Westwood** popped into a Greenwich school to give the kids a lesson with the Big Dawg

RADIO 1 DJ
Tim Westwood
dropped in at
John Roan school
last week as part

of the BBC Radio's 1Xtra schools tour. The end of term extravaganza took place from July 18 to 22 in five schools around London to kick start the summer holidays. On Tuesday 19th, the school on Maze Hill hosted the show presented by Westwood and his pals and fellows DJs Twin B and Gemma Cairney. Westwood told the students: "When you get an opportunity in life, really seize that moment and make that your moment for life."

The tour gave pupils the opportunity to get involved with a live BBC radio broadcast a look at what goes on behind the scenes. Set up in a science lab the breakfast show included its usual music, topics and antics. Students had the chance to get on air with their favourite presenters and even teachers were given a grilling. Keeping with the education theme the show included a blagger's guide to Geography and random nuggets of info including the fact that China has more English speakers than the United States. Students also offered their own entertainment during the four-hour broadcast which started at 7am. Performances from the school's band and choir were aired and both received great praise from the whole 1Xtra crew. The 1Xtra tour is an introduction to the station and broadcasting careers but it also kicked off the traditional end of school term carnival. It was a non-uniform day with the theme this year being pirates and sailors. There were many fun activities to take part in such as games, sumo wrestling, a bouncy castle and the infamous 'Splat a Teacher' where pupils bought wet sponges to aim at their headteacher Des Malone who



CHILLING WITH THE BIG DAWG: Westwood goes for a bourbon, and inset, he bonds with his new pals



especially at school. Twin B added: "Work hard to reach all your goals and stay away from negativity."

Gemma Cairney

said: "Always be open-minded. Never think you're too cool for school and learn from every single person you meet."

And there are other radio roles for the less extroverted, such as producer and engineer. Gemma also advises to look on BBC learning online where there are portals for career information. For young musicians there is BBC Introducing where aspiring popstars can upload tracks for DJs to hear. She went from theatre to fashion until she thought of combining the two in presenting, and much of the time she learnt on the job. It was a sentiment echoed by

Westwood. "If you want to be something, you've got to do something. If you want to be a DJ get on an online station, to be an artist just start making music."

"Create these opportunities for yourself and use things like YouTube, Facebook, Twitter to get your fan base. This is how you get your career going."

Carin Suggate

More info at
www.bbc.co.uk/1xtra

Announcement from Westwood!

An under 18 club night is coming to a venue in Greenwich. The free event will take place on August 23 but you will need tickets so stay tuned to 1Xtra for full details. DJs on the night will include Westwood, Mistajam, Target and Robbo Ranx.

Book

Lion roars into stores

GREENWICH writer Mike Anderiesz is roaring ahead with a unusually titled children's book of poetry.

Loe the Dyslexic Lion is an anthology of humorous and heart-warming poems for children with disabilities or anyone who feels bullied, excluded or different and has already been taken up by the BeatBullying charity who are promoting it to their supporters and Mini Mentors teams. Loe the Dyslexic Lion is priced at £2.85 and 50% of royalties go to children's charities including Great Ormond St Hospital. The remainder is being invested in an audio book and animated iPad version, with a cast of celebrity narrators. All proceeds from these will also go to charity. Mike hopes his efforts will encourage others to also take matters into their own hands. "I'm hopeful this might inspire other local writers, particularly poets who rarely get to see their work in print", he said.

The author, whose credits include the Guardian, has attempted for years to get his book published mainstream. Confident it is a winning project and fed up with little interest from big name publishers, Mike decided to go it alone by publishing the title on the Amazon Kindle. This low cost method not only cuts out the middleman but has the potential reach audiences worldwide.

To read more about the project go to www.facebook.com/groups/loeandfriends
Loe the Dyslexic Lion is available now from the Kindle store link www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B005C14WBU

Your Tube - new tunes!

WE'VE got a brand new feature starting in Scene this week: **Your Tube**. It's a regular spot for artists and musicians from the borough. So if you have a track you've uploaded to YouTube forward us the link with your name, the track title and a little bit about yourself and it could be featured. KICKING off Your Tube this week is Andre Baptiste, a 15-year-old rapper from St Paul's Academy - Tinie Tempah's old school, no less.

Andre only believes in positive rapping and writes his own lyrics for his raps as well as doing some songwriting. His tracks Step Forward and Say What I Like feature and are produced by his good friend and collaborator Cass Kidd. Check them out at www.youtube.com/andrerapstar

Email your links to carinsplace@hotmail.com



Calling all writers! If you would like to submit a review to Scene email rodkitson@gmail.com

FINAL SCENE

No average Joe

A pair of Joe Orton plays which have not been seen in London for a decade have been given a long-overdue airing in Greenwich



THE relentless march of the Great British summertime rendered *Scene* completely soaked in the short few minutes it took to walk to the Greenwich Playhouse.

On the bill was a Joe Orton doubleshot of two rarely-performed plays, *The Ruffian on the Stair* and *The Erpingham Camp*. He was a rainy day kind of guy by all accounts was Joe, but even so the prospect of sitting through a pair of plays with steaming knees dampened the spirits somewhat. Ruffian's bleak premise shared more than a passing resemblance to Arthur Miller's *A View From the Bridge*: the power struggle between two alpha males, the downtrodden woman and the set itself. Only this time the dwelling was a King's Cross bedsit and not a Brooklyn slum.

Any thoughts of a wash-out were quickly forgotten when the play's trio took to the stage.

Paul Robison's misogynistic Michael O'Rourke was instantly dislikable, his string vest a well-worn signpost of the stunted emotions inside his bitter existence. Here was a man going through the motions, destined to forever settle for half, and his wife was to bare the brunt of his frustrations. Robison's portrayal was note perfect – from the Irish lilt right through to the way he was permanently buttoning and unbuttoning his starched shirt.

His partner Joyce was expertly judged by Rebecca Hands-Wicks, a nervous ball of housebound neurosis and eagerness to do right by her man. She'd had a chequered past, which would come back to haunt her. It was credit to Maria Chiorando's compact direction that the pair were so tightly choreographed around the small stage.

The standout performance came from the casual menace of Jack Brackstone-Brown as Wilson, the unwanted intruder in the lives of the couple. At first there appeared no connection between the pair and the young Teddy Boy, whose bovver boots, braces and glint in the eye were surely inspired by Malcolm McDowell's Alex DeLarge in *A Clockwork Orange*.

Brackstone-Brown's air of danger was ever present. All it took was a flick of his booted heel on the couch, or a slight change in his tone for a palpable breath to be drawn inside the theatre.

Bully Michael's power was on the wane as the terrifying presence of the young interloper increased. But underneath the bravado of both men there were beating hearts. Orton – and the actors here – perfectly encapsulated the emotional illiteracy of the male population of the mid-20th century. It showed in the grief of Wilson who could not let go the loss of his brother, and in Michael as he clumsily demonstrated that he loved Joyce but didn't know how to show it. "I'm cuckolded," he conceded, "I'm too old to start again. My heart aches to admit it but I love her." Though Orton started out with sympathy for the downtrodden woman, his glib stance in the end only succeeded in using Joyce as a vehicle for the men of the

piece to express their emotions. There was to be only one outcome at the close of play, and suffice to say, it wasn't a happy ever after. The cheery counterpoint to the gnawing realism of Ruffian was *The Erpingham Camp*. Think *Lord of the Flies* at Butlins. Ruffian was always going to be a hard act to follow, and the comic delivery of Erpingham was less successful the weighty themes of the opener. Perhaps because the cast was bigger, it lacked the former's focus. It was a knockabout romp which didn't take itself too seriously, but Orton's characters here were at times a little predictable. The eponymous Erpingham (Barry Clarke) was the pompous Captain Mainwaring at the centre of the holiday camp, who was to hand over the reigns of control to the young upstart Riley.

Danny Wainwright's perky portrayal of the naïve redcoat was punctuated by an impressive turn on the ukulele which captured the true essence of the quintessentially English holiday at home. Ross Finbow's Kenny highlighted some of the less than endearing traditions that can be brought about when too much sauce is added to the mix. Talking of sauce, Rachel Waring's cheeky Jessie induced more than a titter or two with her double entendres, and the seedy Padre – played by Christopher Prior – was the perfect leech.

So while Erpingham was a more light-hearted affair than Ruffian, it was a reassuring reminder of the long-standing traditions of the English summertime. And as we stepped outside there was another: the rain was still coming down.

RK

The Ruffian on the Stair and the Erpingham Camp are on at the Greenwich Playhouse until August 7, Tues-Sat at 7.30pm and on Sundays at 4pm. Tickets £13/£10 Book on 020 8858 9256 or visit www.galleontheatre.co.uk



THE REDCOATS ARE COMING: the Erpingham Camp (above) served as a jovial contrast to the gritty realism of *The Ruffian on the Stair* (top and left)

To get news of all the latest local events sign up for e-alerts at: www.greenwich.gov.uk/ealerts

Edited by Rod Kitson - 020 8921 5916
email: rodkitson@ymail.com

Dick Morgan takes a look at a pair of films out on the big screen locally

End of an era for Harry



THE journey is over. After seven books, 1.2 million words and this, the last of eight films, it is time to say goodbye, time for our trio to take a rest and time for us to reflect. What a journey it has been. Generations of children have grown up with the actors. Generations of adults have become life-long fans and generations of the future are in for such a treat. But before we can rest, there is one final battle. Hogwarts is under siege and the outcome is far from clear. In a tone more sinister than anything hitherto, Harry must discover and destroy the keys to you-know-who's soul. Director David Yates puts the relative disappointment of Part 1 firmly behind him in a breath-taking production of **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2**. The special effects are quite stunning. We plunge the depths on impossible rollercoasters only to soar to the heights on the wings of a dragon. We marvel at the treasures in the vaults of Gringott's bank, we wonder at stone armies brought to life with one new spell. We wonder too at the sheer strength of the cast. While our trio have been strong, Daniel Radcliffe as Harry has been particularly touching,

if unheroic. Watson too is increasingly persuasive and Grint, naturally funny. The support cast has been dazzling: Bonham Carter (Bellatrix) hysterically evil, Michael Gambon (Dumbledore) the personification of patience and Maggie Smith (Minerva McGonagall) endlessly reassuring. But above them all stands Alan Rickman as Severus Snape, his clipped tones so threatening, his penetrating eyes staring deep into the soul. His final scene with Dumbledore is one of the highlights, not just this movie, but of the entire series. As the battle nears its end and Harry wanders through the ruins that were his school, he is appalled. "I never meant for people to die" - he laments to his dead parents before seeking out his nemesis for the final confrontation. "The boy who lived has come to die", Voldemort jeers mockingly, reckoning without, well, that would be telling. But with closure there is sadness. Never again will we queue up at midnight to purchase the new book. Never again will we phone up for hours to ensure tickets for first night. Never again will we buy the latest DVD. The brand will live on - the new theme park in Orlando is a roaring success - but the stories are over and it is time



THAT'S ALL FOLKS: this will be the final outing for Harry and Co.

to move on.
Goodbye Harry Potter, and thank you for the ride.
9/10

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2 is out now at local cinemas
Cert: 12A

DM

WIN
We have 2 pairs of cinema tickets to The Greenwich Picturehouse to give away. Just answer this question:
Who plays the role of Snape?
Comp ends Aug 3. Email answer, (and your address and phone no.) to competitions@greenwich.gov.uk or send a postcard marked 'Harry Comp' to Woolwich Town Hall, Wellington Street, SE18 6PW

Picturehouse

Tree of Life: Pitt of despair



"If God had not existed, man would have had to invent him". Thus spoke Voltaire in an effort to explain mankind's eternal desire to make sense of the world and to justify what appears to be random, inexplicable and unfair.

Is a world without reason truly possible to bear? Nothing is more unreasonable than the death of a child and this is the driving force behind Terrence Malik's **Tree of Life** and the catalyst for a two and a half hour reflection on life, love and creation. Sean Penn plays Jack, a successful but disenchanted corporate executive who looks back on his life to find some sort of meaning. There's his fear of his father, a demanding and disciplinarian bully (Brad Pitt), constantly angry with his boys, his contempt but love for his mother, a beautiful, ethereal but weak-minded angel (Jessica Chastain) devoted to her church and to her God, and his relationship with his soon-to-die brother. His life is one that's never easy, never normal and ultimately full of regret. Suddenly, without notice, the film descends into a lengthy and over-indulgent camera-fest on the origins of life, losing both its direction and its audience. We are swept from volcanic eruptions to the implosion of stars, from the dawn of the

earth the birth of new life including a carnivorous dinosaur that inexplicably releases its prey. While the camerawork is spectacular (Emmanuel Lubezki at the lens) and the music (Mahler, Berlioz and Holst) suitably compelling, Malik's philosophical meanderings utterly fail to convince. While the questions are valid - the meaning of life, our place in the world, the existence of God - the responses are weak none more so than Jack's mother who abandons her child. "Take my son", she screams. The characters do their best with Malik's sparse, repetitive and poorly-drafted script, despite continual interruptions from inappropriate voiceovers. Pitt is strong, his aggression believable and his regret sincere. Chastain glides serenely through her part, although her levitation is frankly bizarre. But Hunter McCracken (the young Jack) is the star, tormented and tormenting, and desperate for the approbation and love of his father. While the scale of Malik's ambition is to be commended - presumably the reason for winning the 2011 Palme D'Or at the Cannes Film Festival - his execution disappoints and the movie ends up falling between stools: lightweight documentary and unfinished drama. 4/10.

DM

ToL is out now at selected local cinemas

AUTHORITARIAN: Pitt is strong in his role but is let down by paper-thin storyline

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Borough
BRIEFSChallenge
yourself to make
a difference

THE GREENWICH & Bexley Community Hospice on Bostall Hill, Abbey Wood, is calling on local people to do something different with the launch of its 2011 challenge event programme. Activities range from the challenging to the tough and extreme, and participants can choose the challenge that best suits them and their physical fitness level. Events are held throughout the year in a host of destinations around the world including the UK, France, Nepal, Tanzania, China, Morocco, Peru and Vietnam and range from skydives, overseas treks, climbs and bike rides. Participants raise money through sponsorship to support the work of the hospice.

● To find out more, contact the Fundraising Team on 020 8319 9230 or go to www.communityhospice.org.uk/treks-challenges

Honours on horseback

Disabled riders scoop top awards in national contest

A YOUNG disabled rider from Greenwich became a star on horseback when he competed in the National Riding for the Disabled Association Championships in Gloucestershire. Max Davies, 19, who is autistic, came first in the dressage and countryside challenge, riding Maggie. Max, from Crookston Road, first got involved in riding 10 years ago through a Greenwich Council-funded scheme which is based at the New Lodge Riding Centre, in Nottingham Lane, Eltham. The council funds a variety of horse riding sessions for children and young people with special needs and disabilities, which are free to those living within the borough. Another rider at New Lodge, Daniel Darbyshire, 10, came third

in the Best Turned-out class. Both had to qualify in a regional event before going on to the national finals. The event attracted disabled riders from all over the country.

Hilary Crawford who runs the riding group, which is a registered charity, told GT: "Next year's Paralympics will put the focus on disabled riding, and Paralympic dressage riders were at the championships in Gloucestershire, so it was very motivational for Max and Daniel to see them in action."

● More riding events are planned over the summer for Greenwich children and young people with special needs. For details, or to book, ring Hilary on 020 8851 6447 or e-mail her on hilary.crawford@virgin.net



RISING STAR: Max Davies, 19, shows his skills on his horse Maggie

London Borough of Greenwich
Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (AS AMENDED)
Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)(England) Order 2010
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (AS AMENDED)
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990 (AS AMENDED)
Town & Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 2007 (AS AMENDED)

Notice is hereby given that application(s) have been made to The London Borough of Greenwich in respect of the under mentioned premises/sites. You can see the submissions and any plans during the hours of 9.00am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9.00am to 4.00pm on Fridays at -

Development Planning, Crown Building 5th Floor, 48 Woolwich New Road, London SE18 6HQ
or at the Library shown between normal opening hours.

If development proposals affect Conservation Areas and/or Statutorily Listed Buildings under of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Area) Act 1990 (As Amended) this will be shown within the item below.

Anyone who wishes to comment on these applications should be made in writing to Development Planning within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Please quote the appropriate reference number.

Date: 27/07/2011

Steve Pallett - Chief Planning Officer

Publicity for Planning Applications			
Applicant: London & Quadrant	11/0469/F	Applicant: Mr Will Holmes Accor UK & Ireland Hotels	11/1644/F
31 CHRISTCHURCH WAY, GREENWICH, LONDON, SE10 9AJ		IBIS HOTEL, 30 STOCKWELL STREET, GREENWICH, LONDON, SE10 8EY	
Development: Installation of replacement timber windows to rear and side. Amended Description		Development: Construction of a ground floor extension and modifications to staircase as amendment to planning permission dated 01/07/2011 (Ref: 11/0130/F) for an additional 39 bedrooms.	
Drawing Numbers: 01, 02, Allocated Drawing Numbers: 001, 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008, Site Location Plan, 6 Photographs and Letter dated 05/06/11.		Drawing Numbers: L1/003/Rev: P1, L2/001/Rev: P1, 03/Rev: P1, 04/Rev: P1, 05/Rev: P1, 06/Rev: P1, 07/Rev: P1, 08/Rev: P1, 09/Rev: P1, 10/Rev: P1, 11/Rev: P1, 12/Rev: P1, 13/Rev: P1, 14/Rev: P1, Drawing Issue Sheet, Design and Access Statement and Letter dated 18th February 2011.	
Library: East Greenwich Library, Woolwich Road SE10 0BL		Library: West Greenwich Library, Greenwich High Road SE10 8NN	
Conservation Area: EAST GREENWICH		Conservation Area: WEST GREENWICH	
Applicant: Rev Dele Komolafe Gospel Faith Mission International	11/0862/F	Publicity for Listed Building Consent	
GOSPEL FAITH MISSION INTERNATIONAL, THE LIGHTHOUSE, 12 ARNOTT CLOSE, THAMESMEAD, LONDON, SE28 8BG		Applicant: Mr Howard Allen	11/1554/L
Development: Demolition of the existing 01 use building and construction of a new church in a two storey building.		QUEEN ELIZABETH COLLEGE, GREENWICH HIGH ROAD, GREENWICH, SE10 8JD	
Drawing Numbers: 00 001 B, 002 B, 003 B, 004 B, 005 B, 100 B, 101 B, 102 B, 103 B, 200 B, 201 B, 300 B, 301 B, Design and Access Statement, Noise Impact Assessment and Flood Risk Assessment.		Development: Installation of 2 replacement Satellite Dishes/Ventilators.	
Library: Claude Ramsey Library, Thamesmead Leisure Centre, Thamesmead Drive SE28 8DT		Drawing Numbers: Schematic Overview (including Photo Sheets 01, 02, 03, 04 & 05), Site location plan, Design and Access Statement and Covering letter.	
Conservation Area:		Library: West Greenwich Library, Greenwich High Road SE10 8NN	
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Tal Sandhu	11/1410/F	Conservation Area: Listed Building	
20 COLERAINE ROAD, BLACKHEATH, LONDON, SE3 7PQ		Applicant: Mr & Mrs Ravn	11/1588/L
Development: Roof extension comprising gable end with mansard roof, dormer window and formation of roof terrace over back addition.		GOVERNMENT HOUSE, GRAND DEPOT ROAD, WOOLWICH, SE18 6SJ	
Drawing Numbers: SD 11/2008/001/Rev: B1, Site location plan and Design and Access Statement.		Development: Conversion and extension of existing building to provide 8 units (4 x two-bed and 4 x one-bed self-contained units) and erection of 18 x 3-bed houses.	
Library: Blackheath Library, Old Dover Road, Blackheath, SE3 7BT		Drawing Numbers: S-623/000, 001, 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, PA 623/100 Rev: M, 101 F, 102 F, 103 F, 104 E, 105 E, 106 F, 107 B, 108 B, 109 B, 110 B, 111 C, 112 D, 113 D, 115, 116, Archaeological Report, Design and Access Statement, Planning Obligation (Draft) and Site Plan.	
Conservation Area: WESTCOMBE PARK		Library: Woolwich Public Library, Woolwich Centre, 21 Love Lane, Woolwich, SE18 6QT	
Applicant: Greenwich Council	11/1557/F	Conservation Area: Listed Building	
THE GROUNDS OF MYCENAE HOUSE, MYCENAE ROAD, BLACKHEATH, SE3		Applicant: Berkeley Homes (East Thames) Limited	11/1631/L
Development: Formation of new play area and installation of Wooden Play Equipment.		BLOCK E3, ROYAL LABORATORY EAST PAVILLION, THE WARREN/ROYAL ARSENAL, NO 1 STREET, WOOLWICH, LONDON, SE18 6GH	
Drawing Numbers: Allocated Drawing No: 001, Design and Access Statement, Block plan, Site location plan and Letters dated 20th June & 4th July 2011.		Development: Restoration and extension to accommodate four two bedroom flats including internal and external works.	
Library: Blackheath Library, Old Dover Road, Blackheath, SE3 7BT		Drawing Numbers: 1795-00-0001 P02, 0010 P02, 0012 P02, 0013 P02, 0014 P02, 0015 P02, 0016 P02, 0017 P02, 0120 P02, 0121 P02, 0122 P02, 0123 P02, 0120 P02, 0321, 0322 P02, 0323 P02, 0420 P02, 0421 P02, 0422 P02, D1863/L180 Rev: A, Design and Access Statement and Letter dated 8.6.11.	
Conservation Area: WESTCOMBE PARK		Library: Woolwich Public Library, Woolwich Centre, 21 Love Lane, Woolwich, SE18 6QT	
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Ravn	11/1587/F	Conservation Area: Listed Building	
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, GRAND DEPOT ROAD, WOOLWICH, SE18 6SJ		Applicant: Mrs Catherine Hill	11/1634/L
Development: Conversion and extension of existing building to provide 8 units (4 x two-bed and 4 x one-bed self-contained units) and erection of 18 x 3-bed houses.		34 GLOUCESTER CIRCUS, GREENWICH, LONDON, SE10 8RY	
Drawing Numbers: S-623/000, 001, 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, PA 623/100 Rev: M, 101 F, 102 F, 103 F, 104 E, 105 E, 106 F, 107 B, 108 B, 109 B, 110 B, 111 C, 112 D, 113 D, 115, 116, Archaeological Report, Design and Access Statement, Planning Obligation (Draft) and Site Plan.		Development: Installation of replacement front entrance steps.	
Library: Woolwich Public Library, Woolwich Centre, 21 Love Lane, Woolwich, SE18 6QT		Drawing Numbers: 118/01 (Site location plan), Allocated drawing no: 01, Application Appendix Doc: 001, and Sample 1 (Flaggy Buff), Sample 2 (Flaggy Blue Grey) & Sample 3 (Mosaic Stone).	
Conservation Area:		Library: West Greenwich Library, Greenwich High Road SE10 8NN	
Applicant: Miss Ruth Holmes The Royal Parks	11/1640/F	Conservation Area: Listed Building	
GREENWICH PARK PLAYGROUND, GREENWICH PARK, PARK VISTA, GREENWICH, SE10			
Development: Extension to the existing playground including new natural play equipment, restoration works and landscaping as part of the Olympic legacy for Greenwich Park.			
Drawing Numbers: 001 F, 105 P Rev: A, 107 P Rev: A, 280 P Rev: A, 300 P, 301 P, 302 P, 303 P, 304 P, 305 P, 306 P Rev: B, 400 P, 401 P, General Plan of Archaeological Interest, Site Boundary Plan, Planning Schedule, 2 x Photo Sheets, Play Equipment Schedule and Design & Access Statement.			
Library: West Greenwich Library, Greenwich High Road SE10 8NN			
Conservation Area: GREENWICH PARK			

Welcome the world

**LONDON
OLYMPICS
1 YEAR
TO GO**

Volunteers gear up for 2012 visitors

by Hilary Bryan

VOLUNTEERS from Greenwich, who helped to welcome thousands of visitors to the Greenwich Park Olympic test events, are gearing up to welcome the world for the real event next year.

Greenwich Council is looking for more than 550 volunteers from the borough to help guide thousands of visitors coming to the three 2012 venues in Greenwich during the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Volunteers for the Olympics will be recruited this autumn to work on the Olympic Games, which run from July 27 to August 12, and the Paralympic Games from August 29 to September 9 next year.

The Greenwich volunteers will work alongside LOCOG Games Makers and the London Ambassadors to ensure spectators are never more than a few minutes away from someone who can help them.

The once-in-a-lifetime opportunity means local people will be able to make crucial contribution to the 2012 Games.

Around 28 local people volunteered to help at the Greenwich park test events earlier this month. They were on hand in Greenwich town centre and in Greenwich Park guiding people to the test event venue and providing

key information.

They were recruited through Greenwich Volunteer Centre, which provided training and a distinctive red jacket for volunteers to wear.

Volunteer Mo Adams, a freelance print production manager, signed up as she was in between jobs.

During her four-hour shift for the test events in Greenwich Park she told GT: "I volunteered because I'm a very sociable person and I like being out and meeting people. I've been giving people advice, leaflets and maps and showing people where to go."

And she added: "I couldn't commit to being a Games Maker or an Ambassador but having this experience is going to allow me to be part of next year."

Twenty-four year old Maria Wright has been a regular at Greenwich Volunteers Centre since last November.

Maria, from Woolwich, said: "We've been giving people information and directions to the test events but also telling them what there is to see in Greenwich."

Maria, who has a nursing degree, added: "For me this has been a bit of a confidence builder, approaching people I don't know isn't something I find easy but I've actually enjoyed doing it and it's been really good fun. It's been interesting to see all the different people who come to Greenwich and having the test events and the Olympics will hopefully raise the profile of volunteering in the borough."



GUIDING LIGHTS: volunteers greet visitors to the test events in Greenwich Park, right, Mo Adams helps a couple of visitors at Greenwich Maritime DLR station

Lyn Asquith-Brown, team leader from Volunteer centre Greenwich, said: "I'm proud to be working in partnership with Greenwich Council and on the volunteering programme for the test events. It's a wonderful opportunity for local people to volunteer and they are really looking forward to being involved with the events in 2012."

Greenwich Council leader

Chris Roberts said: "The council will be responsible for helping to ensure a safe and successful Games in Greenwich and our volunteers will play a key role in this."

● If you are interested in becoming a Greenwich Volunteer for the London 2012 Games email volunteers@visitgreenwich.org.uk or call the TIC team on 0870 608 2000.



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Starting over...

New era for second biggest club in the borough

FOUR strikers good for 20-odd goals each a season is just one of the "lovely problems" for Steve Chapman as he embarks on the most exciting season of his career.

Steve, a former player, will manage Cray Valley PM in their first season in the Kent League. He told GT: "I'm really excited, we all are, because this will be like managing a new club, certainly a new era for Cray Valley."

Their Badgers ground in Middle Park Avenue, Eltham - a few hundred yards down from the McDonald's roundabout - is undergoing a six-figure refurbishment programme including the dressing rooms and clubhouse.

And before the end of the 2011/12 season the club - named not after the Prime Minister but the old Cray Valley Paper Mills - will have a stand and floodlights to reach Kent League standards.

"We won't play our first home game until August 20 to give us a bit of time to get everything ready," said Steve, who works in the Home Office. Our first game will be away on August 13, we don't know the opposition yet. It's very exciting but I'm pretty level-headed and my job will be to keep all our feet on the ground.

"Last season was a lot of pressure as we all wanted to get up. It'll be £7 to get in this season but I'm confident we'll get good support. We've got a grand opening on Sunday, September 4, when our vets are playing Charlton Athletic vets in a 1pm kick-off, so that should be a great day."

The first team has been in the Kent County League for 10 years and has enjoyed great success, especially in cup competitions. Steve said: "We've won the London Intermediate Cup four times in that time and the league championship. I started myself as a centre-half in the same team as Paul Elliott. We're still good friends."

"We've slowly developed our own reputation and grown our own players

by Peter Cordwell

through the Kent Youth League. I also run the London FA's Under 18 rep side so I've got very good links there as well, getting boys who fall out of the Wellings and Bromleys and give them a chance here.

"We've had good players ourselves, including Jack Parkinson, who is now captain of Welling, and other players who are well established in non-league at places like Tooting and Mitcham."

What Steve won't be looking for is the "money hunters" among players but those who want to "join us for the journey". He said: "We have signed Aaron Firth from Chatham and retained Matt Knuckey, who scored 32 goals last season. Luke Tanner scored 16 goals in 20 games, and we've got another striker in Sam Prett."

"We made a conscious decision not have a reserve side this season but to run an Under 18 team in the Kent Youth League. One lad, Ryan Fulljames, a midfielder, came on as a sub in the London Cup Final at just 16."

"Our first year will be about consolidation. Mark Edwards, who has been a great player locally, is my assistant and we work well together. At this level we could meet AFC Wimbledon in the London Senior Cup and Charlton in the Kent Cup. How good is that?"

Third in the Kent County League last season, Cray Valley were invited into the Kent League after a vacancy arose. Chairman Doug Francis said: "We jumped at the chance and now it's all hands to the deck to get everything ready. We've got excellent backers at Badgers who own the ground and Greenwich Council has been a big help with planning permission."

"It's like having a new club and we tell people we're the second highest rated club in the borough after Charlton. Who knows, we might overtake them one day!"

• **First game is away to Tunbridge Wells on August 13**



UPWARDS AND ONWARDS: Cray Valley PM manager Steve Chapman (left) and chairman Doug Francis. Inset, it feels like home

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